

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 20468 01 OF 02 031800Z

46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 IO-06 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 PM-03 PRS-01

DODE-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /062 W

----- 113720

R 031747Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3849

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20468

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: CALL ON SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT

BRANDT RECEIVED ME FOR A 45-MINUTE VISIT ON
DECEMBER 2. HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION
FOLLOW.

1. SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL - WHEN I EXTENDED CONGRATU-
LATIONS ON HIS ELECTION TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIC, BRANDT
REACTED WITH A SHRUG AND SAID EVENT WAS HARDLY ONE
MERITING CONGRATULATIONS. SIC OBVIOUSLY HAS MANY
DEFICIENCIES AND VERY LIMITED POSSIBILITIES; AT SAME
TIME, HE SAID HE FELT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOME GOOD
IN CONTACTS WITH PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY, AND CERTAIN
COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. HE IS PLANNING FOR A SIC MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 20468 01 OF 02 031800Z

WITH VARIOUS AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN LUSAKA NEXT

SPRING. BRANDT THOUGHT THE ORGANIZATION COULD BE A CHANNEL FOR INFLUENCING CIRCLES WARY OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION OR US.

2. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL - BRANDT SAID HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO SPAIN THIS COMING WEEKEND DURING WHICH HE WILL ATTEND SOCIALIST CONGRESS AND CALL ON KING AND PRIME MINISTER. HE HOPES HE CAN ASSIST IN PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING SOCIALIST PARTY AND IN AVOIDING SPLITS WITHIN NON-COMMUNIST LEFT. HE ANTICIPATES THAT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR WILL RESULT IN VICTORY OF RIGHT-MODERATE FORCES AND THINKS THIS WOULD BE GOOD INITIAL STEP.

3. WITH REGARD TO PORTUGAL, I NOTED NEED FOR CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND RESURGENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTY. BRANDT AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY, SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SERIOUSNESS OF ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF PORTUGAL. HE ALSO INDICATED AWARENESS OF STEPS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN NATO FRAMEWORK TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY UNITS IN PORTUGAL.

4. GREAT BRITAIN - BRANDT DISPLAYED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN UK. EVEN IF IMF LOAN AND CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTED, HE FORESEES CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN FUTURE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL CONTRACT IF UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RISE. BRANDT DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORMED IN UK IF CRISIS GETS TOO BAD. ON HISTORICAL NOTE, HE RECALLED THAT IN 1973 HE AND HEATH HAD BEEN CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON BRANDT'S CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A KIND OF MONETARY UNION, WITH FRG BACKING OF UK CURRENCY. BRITISH FINANCIAL CIRCLES HAD OBJECTED, HOWEVER, AND OPPORTUNITY HAD BEEN LOST TO CORRECT SITUATION WHICH HAD NOW WORSENERED DRAMATICALLY.

5. FRG POLITICS - BRANDT SAID TALKS REGARDING FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 20468 01 OF 02 031800Z

TORILY AND HE ANTICIPATES NO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN FORMING THE NEW GOVERNMENT. CDU-CSU SPLIT IS OBVIOUSLY DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR IMPORT, BUT BRANDT THOUGHT ITS LONG-RANGE IMPACT IS STILL UNPREDICTABLE. AS EXPLANATION FOR STRAUSS' BEHAVIOR, BRANDT REMARKED THAT STRAUSS SEES HIMSELF NOW AS ACTING IN ROLE SIMILAR TO THAT CHURCHILL PLAYED BEFORE WORLD WAR II. HE FEELS HE HAS A MISSION TO COMBAT LEFTIST FORCES AND TO CONSOLIDATE

CONSERVATIVE STRENGTH IN WESTERN WORLD. THUS, STRAUSS
CONSIDERS HIMSELF NOT ONLY AN ACTOR IN INTERNAL GERMAN
POLITICS BUT ALSO A FIGURE ON EUROPEAN AND WORLD STAGE.
BRANDT THOUGHT IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THAT BY
SEPARATING CDU AND CSU EACH COULD ATTRACT A FEW MORE
VOTES WITH RESULT THAT TWO PARTIES TOGETHER MIGHT CON-
CEIVABLY OBTAIN MAJORITY. HOWEVER, CALCULATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 20468 02 OF 02 031802Z

46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 IO-06 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 PM-03 PRS-01

DODE-00 ACDA-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01 /062 W

----- 113791

R 031747Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3850

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20468

LIMDIS

OF THIS KIND ARE TOO FINELY TUNED AND IGNORE HUMAN
FACTORS AT WORK. IN GENERAL, BRANDT THOUGHT PRESENT
COALITION WOULD HOLD TOGETHER AND WE WOULD NOT SEE
DEVELOPMENT OF A WEIMAR SITUATION IN FRG.

6. ALTHOUGH BRANDT DID NOT FORESEE FORMATION OF MANY
NEW PARTIES, HE DID SAY THAT HE EXPECTED AN EXTREME
LEFT WING PARTY TO BE FORMED SOME TIME NEXT YEAR. A

FEW EXTREMISTS FROM THE SPD AND SOME SECOND-RANK LABOR FIGURES WOULD ORGANIZE THIS GROUP; HOWEVER, IT WOULD HAVE LITTLE APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC AND BRANDT DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THE POLITICAL PICTURE.

7. GDR AND REUNIFICATION - BRANDT COMMENTED THAT THERE IS EXTENSIVE MALAISE IN THE GDR RESULTING IN PART FROM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INCREASING NUMBER OF APPLI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 20468 02 OF 02 031802Z

CATIONS TO EMIGRATE TO THE WEST. HEIGHTENED TENSIONS WERE REFLECTED IN ACTION TAKEN IN BIERMANN CASE. HOWEVER, BRANDT SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY "EXPLOSION" OR REVOLT IN THE GDR. HE THEN SPOKE OF THE CONTINUING INTEREST IN IDEA OF ONE GERMAN NATION AND SAID HE HAD THE FEELING THAT "SOMETHING IS STIRRING" AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRG ON THIS SCORE. HE IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS LETTERS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF UNDERTAKING FURTHER STEPS TO FACILITATE GREATER CONTACT AND TRAVEL BETWEEN EAST AND WEST GERMANY, I.E. "WITHIN OUR NATION." BRANDT IS UNSURE HOW THIS WILL DEVELOP, BUT HE SAID HE WOULD BE APPREHENSIVE IF A WAVE OF AGITATION WERE TO GROW IN THIS DIRECTION, SINCE IT COULD POSE "PREMATURELY" THE QUESTION OF PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD ACHIEVING REUNIFICATION.

8. BERLIN - BRANDT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE MOOD IN WEST BERLIN, THE FALLING RATE OF INVESTMENT, LESSENING OF MORALE, LACK OF INTEREST OF YOUNG PEOPLE, ETC. HE IS GIVING ATTENTION TO STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE SITUATION AND, TO THIS END, HAS FORMED A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO FOCUS ON PRACTICAL MEASURES TO INCREASE INTEREST IN WEST BERLIN AND THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT. HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE MEETING IN BERLIN IN THE SPRING AND THAT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE THERE WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. BRANDT SAID HE WOULD WELCOME CONTACT WITH US OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW COMMITTEE.

9. BRANDT, WHOM I HAD NOT SEEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SEEMED VIGOROUS, CONFIDENT AND RELAXED. HE ASSURED ME OF HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH ME AND HIS AVAILABILITY AT ANY TIME FOR CONSULTATION.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, MEETING CHAIRMAN, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PARTY LEADERS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN20468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0227
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761272/aaaackib.tel
Line Count: 219
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT BRANDT RECEIVED ME FOR A 45-MINUTE VISIT ON DECEMBER 2. HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WIDE-RANGING CONVER
TAGS: PFOR, GE, SPD, (BRANDT, WILLY), (STOESSEL, WALTER J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006